

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 SIG-01 CIAE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 299550

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SO

SUBJECT: US-SOMALI BILATERAL RELATIONS

REF: STATE 263487

1. SOMALIA AMBASSADOR ADDOU IN LONG LUNCHEON CONVERSATION
WITH DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY BOLEN ON DECEMBER 8 STRONGLY
EMPHASIZED THAT PRESIDENT SIAD WAS VERY INTERESTED IN
IMPROVING BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES.
ADDOU STRESSED THAT SIAD IS A NATIONALIST AND RECOGNIZED
THE IMPORTANCE OF DIVERSIFYING SOMALIA'S EXTERNAL
RELATIONS TO PROTECT THE COUNTRY'S INDEPENDENCE. ADDOU
LEFT THE IMPRESSION THAT AT LEAST HE AND PRESIDENT SIAD
WERE UNEASY ABOUT THE PRESENT DEGREE OF SOMALIA'S DEPENDENCE
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ON THE SOVIET UNION.

2. ADDOU SAID HE HAD WORKED HARD TO IMPROVE US-SOMALIA RELATIONS SINCE HIS ARRIVAL HERE IN 1970. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT GSDR AND US VIEWS HAD NOT COINCIDED ON A NUMBER OF INTERNATIONAL ISSUES. ADDOU CONTENDED, HOWEVER, THAT BOTH THE US AND SOMALIA HAVE AN INTEREST IN MAINTAINING REGIONAL BALANCE AND PEACE IN THE HORN OF AFRICA.

3. AMBASSADOR BOLEN ASSURED ADDOU THAT THE US WANTED

BETTER RELATIONS WITH SOMALIA. HE MENTIONED OUR DROUGHT ASSISTANCE AND OFFER TO RESUME THE AID PROGRAM AS INDICATIVE OF US DESIRE TO IMPROVE RELATIONS. BOLEN NOTED THAT GSDR HAD NOT BEEN RESPONSIVE TO THESE SIGNALS; IF SOMALIA TOOK SOME POSITIVE ACTIONS AND PRESENTED CONCRETE AND REALISTIC PROPOSALS THEY WOULD RECEIVE SYMPATHETIC CONSIDERATION. ADDOU WAS TOLD THAT ANY US AID TO SOMALIA WOULD OF NECESSITY BE VERY MODEST AT THIS STAGE BECAUSE OF BUDGETARY AND OTHER REASONS. ADDOU WAS ENCOURAGED TO THINK IN TERMS OF THE ENTIRE RANGE OF POSSIBLE ACTIONS TO IMPROVE BILATERAL RELATIONS INCLUDING SHIP VISITS, CULTURAL EXCHANGE AND PRIVATE INVESTMENTS AS WELL AS MODEST AID PROGRAM. ADDOU SAID SOMALIA WOULD WELCOME US PRIVATE INVESTMENT AND RECALLED THAT PRESIDENT SIAD HAD PERSONALLY APPROVED A US NAVAL VISIT IN 1975; HE THOUGH A SHIP VISIT COULD BE RE-SCHEDULED.

4. ADDOU PLANS TO RETURN TO SOMALIA ON CONSULTATION IN JANUARY OR FEBRUARY 1977. HE HOPES TO DEVELOP A CLEARER IDEA OF WHAT MIGHT BE DONE TO IMPROVE RELATIONS BEFORE THESE CONSULTATIONS. ROBINSON

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